GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1288
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Trade Talks with China
Raj Dr. Udit

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative agencies in China have not responded to India"s demand in three key sectors, viz. pharmaceutical, agriculture and IT services where the country has demonstrative strength;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government has held any talks with the Chinese Government in this regard; and
(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the next course of action of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d): India has consistently engaged with China on greater market access for India's exports to China, especially in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, IT services etc. India has regularly sought simplification and greater transparency in China's procedures relating to registration, inspection and approvals for Indian Products.
The issue of market access for Indian products like pharmaceuticals, agricultural products and IT Services has been discussed at the highest levels of leadership of the two countries.
During the state visit of Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People"s Republic of China, to India from 17 to 19th September 2014, the Work Plan on Drug Administration and Cooperation was signed between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of the Republic of India and China Food and Drug Administration of the People's Republic of China. The work plan envisages cooperation between the two sides in fields of drug standards, traditional medicine and drug testing, etc.
During the 3rd India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) a MoU on Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology between Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Republic of India and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China was signed. The First Meeting of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Joint Working Group on Cooperation in ICT took place in New Delhi from 14-18th December 2014.
In the Joint Statement issued during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to China in May 2015 it has been stated that, "The two sides resolved to take joint measures to alleviate the skewed bilateral trade so as to realize its sustainability. Such measures will include cooperation on pharmaceutical supervision including registration, speedier phytosanitary negotiations on agro-products for two-way trade, stronger links between Indian IT companies and Chinese enterprises, and increasing services trade in tourism, films, healthcare, IT and logistics."
Commerce Secretary, during a meeting with Chief Inspector, Chinese General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), on17th September 2015 in Beijing, requested expedient clearance on the pending requests for market access for Indian agro products. Commerce Secretary also met the Vice-Minister, Ministry of Industry & Information Technology (MIIT) of China on 17th September 2015 and discussed the IT & IT Services enablement issues. During the visit, she also had a meeting with Chinese Vice-Minister, Ministry of Commerce, where market access issues on pharmaceuticals, agricultural products and IT services were again flagged.
On an invitation of Export Inspection Council of India, an expert delegation from AQSIQ visited India in September 2015, for field verification of the surveillance and control system of Indian fishmeal/fish oil for enabling exports to China.
Under the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG) mechanism, a Joint Working Group on Trade in Services has been set up to promote cooperation in IT/ITES and other sectors. The second meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade in Services was held in New Delhi on 23rd October 2015.
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